

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-37. (cancelled)

38. (previously amended) A method of modulating TRAF mediated signal transduction in a cell comprising introducing into said cell a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: a) a native sequence I-TRAF polypeptide, b) a polypeptide having at least 70% sequence identity with the TRAF binding domain of a native sequence I-TRAF polypeptide and capable of inhibiting a TRAF-mediated signaling event, and c) a fragment of a) or b) capable of inhibiting a TRAF-mediated signaling event; whereby said nucleic acid is expressed in said cell, and the resultant gene product modulates TRAF-mediated signal transduction in said cell.

39. (currently amended) A method of modulating TRAF mediated signaling in a cell comprising:

culturing a cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a TRAF inhibitor polypeptide (I-TRAF) comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 60% sequence identity to an I-TRAF polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a human I-TRAF polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:5;
- (b) a murine I-TRAF- α polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1;
- (c) a murine I-TRAF- β polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3 being additionally present at the N terminus of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (d) a truncated murine I-TRAF- α polypeptide ending with amino acids ValThrValLeuHis (VTVLH) following amino acid Gln (Q) at position 354 (SEQ ID NO:9) ~~having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8~~;
- (e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:5;
- (f) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 35-236 of SEQ ID NO:1 or the equivalent part of a human I-TRAF sequence; and

(g) a TRAF2 binding fragment of the polypeptide of any one of (a)-(f);
under conditions suitable for expression of the I-TRAF polypeptide from the nucleic acid molecule.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes an I-TRAF polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or the amino acid sequence of amino acid residues 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:5.

41. (previously presented) A method of modulating TRAF mediated signaling in a cell comprising:

introducing into said cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding an I-TRAF polypeptide ; and expressing the I-TRAF polypeptide from the nucleic acid molecule, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to any one of the nucleic acid sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ. ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of an I-TRAF polypeptide coding region of SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:5, wherein the polypeptide can bind to TRAF2.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:5, wherein the polypeptide can bind to TRAF2.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:5, wherein the polypeptide can bind to TRAF2.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the cell is an Epstein-Barr virus associated tumor cell.